



10 MAY 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: The President

VIA: The Vice President

1. On Thursday, 5 May, I called on Senator Inouye. He indicated that the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence is nearly evenly divided on the question of whether or not to release a single figure for the intelligence budget. He further stated that he had talked with the Senate Leadership and they, too, were uncertain.

2. The Senate Leadership asked Senator Inouye to write you a letter and ask what your specific desire is. They indicated that if you oppose a release, it will not be released; if you favor a release, it will be released.

3. I suggested to Senator Inouye that rather than send you a letter, since he and his Committee are scheduled to meet with you on the 13th of May, he might want to raise it at that time instead. He indicated that he would do so.

4. My recommendation is that you respond along the following lines:

"I have agreed not to object to disclosure of a single budget figure in a desire to be more forthcoming and open. I am persuaded that only a single figure can be released within the bounds of security. It is now up to the Senate as to what you want to do. I do not want to attempt to dictate to you because of the accompanying responsibility also to maintain a strict adherence to a policy of only one number."

STANSFIELD TURNER

STAT

OR16 - to Dennis Clift - V.P. Office
via for DCI

cy - O/DCI

cy - ES

cy - ER

ER, (Sophie)

Per our conversation, this version of
ER 77-1266 was shown by ADM Turner to the
Vice President on Friday, 6 May, and returned
w/DCI. We then sent a revised version on
Tuesday, 10 May. DEBBIE

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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Washington, D.C. 20505

6 MAY 1977

*Delivered by hand
8/10*

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2. The Senate Leadership asked Senator Inouye to write you a letter and ask what your specific desire is. They indicated that if you oppose a release, it will not be released; if you favor a release, it will be released.

3. I suggested to Senator Inouye that rather than send you a letter, since he and his Committee are scheduled to meet with you on the 13th of May, he might want to raise it at that time. He indicated that he would do so.

4. My recommendation is that you respond along the following lines:

"As stated by Admiral Turner in his testimony on 27 April, I would not object if the Congress decided to release to the public a single figure for the national foreign intelligence program budget. I do this with the sense of confidence that I would be able to hold the line within the Executive Department to prevent any breakdown of that single figure into its component parts. It is not within my purview to make a similar determination of the ability to prevent an unraveling within the Legislative Branch. It is the responsibility of Congress itself to come to their own conclusion on this basic factor in deciding whether or not to release the figure."

Stansfield Turner
STANSFIELD TURNER

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